

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 is solicited and is believed to be in order for the following reasons.

Specifically, claims 1 and 10 have been amended so as to include therein the substance of prior claims 7 and 21, respectively. Claims 7 and 21 have therefore been cancelled as redundant. Therefore, since independent claims 1 and 10 now include subject matter indicated to be allowable in paragraph 4 of the subject Official Action, their allowance is in order.

No "new issues" with respect to claims 2, 5, 15 and 16 as asserted by the Examiner in her Advisory Action dated July 19, 2006 are raised. Specifically, applicants note the following.

Re Claims 2, 15 and 16:¹ These claims require that the "coating layer" (which is the *dried* residue of an aqueous chitosan-based solution) contain a certain mass density of the prehydrolyzed chitosan. Specifically, these claims require that the prehydrolyzed chitosan be present in the coating layer in an amount from 6 to 15 g/m². It is readily apparent that the coating layer could have a mass density as recited in claims 2, 15 and 16 and *still* be present in the coating layer in an amount of at least 80% by weight. Hence, there is no inconsistency as between the recitations of amended claims 1 and 10 on the one hand, and the recitations of claims 2 and 15-16 on the other hand.

Re Claims 5 and 19: Claims 5 and 19 require the prehydrolyzed chitosan to be present in the "aqueous solution" in an amount between 7 and

¹ Although the Examiner did not expressly assert a "new issue" being presented by dependent claim 8, applicants note that the same reasoning to be discussed immediately below would apply equally to such claim.

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12% by weight. As will be recalled from the discussion above, the claimed "coating layer" is a "dried residue of an aqueous chitosan-based solution". Hence, the "aqueous solution" as recited in claims 5 and 19 most certainly could have prehydrolyzed chitosan present in an amount between 7 and 12 wt.% and still achieve a "coating layer" upon drying which contains at least 80% by weight of the chitosan. Hence, once again there is no discrepancy as between the amendments to claims 1 and 10 on the one and the expressions in dependent claims 5 and 19 on the other hand.

As should now be evident, no "new issues" are in fact raised by the amendment instructions above. Indeed, only a cursory review of the claims pending herein is needed in order to confirm that all claims are consistent with one another. Moreover, by complying with the Examiner's suggestion with respect to allowable subject matter, the amendment instructions above should be reviewed and entered as being compliant with 37 CFR §116. Such favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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